

Wood Industry Careers (Entry Level)

Industry Opportunities

- Traineeships
- Modern Apprenticeships
- Scholarships
- Initial Wage Range: Approximately \$24,000 - \$26,000 per annum.

What are employers looking for:

- A proven work ethic / positive employment history in full-time, part-time or holiday employment.
- A positive attitude and motivation to achieve and improve work skills.
- Mental and physical ability.
- Preferred starting educational requirement NCEA Level 1 English and Maths.
- Physical fitness for outdoor jobs.
- A willingness to undertake further training.

Forest Establishment and Silviculture

Career	Description
Establishment and Silviculture Forestry Worker	Land preparation, planting, weeding (chemical and hand tools) and tree pruning.
Mensuration Forestry Worker	Measuring trees to ascertain pruning/thinning requirements, volume and quantity of wood in trees, measurements of logs in forests, mills and ports.

Forest Harvesting

Career	Description
Skid Worker	Branch trimming, stem measurement, quality control checking.
Tree Faller	Bringing trees to the ground in the best position for removal, without damaging them.
Breaker-out	Attaching strops to tree stems ready to haul them out.
Machine Operator	Working the extraction machines that pull the stems out of the forest after they have been felled.
Cable Harvesting Operator	Designing and using the wire cable systems to get trees from steep or difficult areas while keeping environmental damage to a minimum.
Log Maker	Deciding the best way to process tree stems to get the best value from them.
Log Loader Operator	Sorting the logs into stacks and loading them securely onto trucks.
Mechanised Harvesting Operator	Using machines to fell, bunch together and take tree stems to the loading area.

Solid Wood Processing

Career	Description
Tablehand	Sorting and counting graded timber.
Timber Filleter / Yard Hand	Stacking wood for drying. De-stacking, wrapping and packing wood for transport.
Sawmill Operator	Operates machinery to saw logs into lumber/timber.
Timber Grader	Grades timber and operates machinery.
Kiln Operator	Controls timber drying equipment.
Treatment Operator	Controls treatment and preservation equipment.
Saw Doctor	Maintaining and sharpening saws and knives.
Timber Machinist	Maintaining, designing and sharpening timber cutting and profiling tools.

Wood Panels

Career	Description
Wood Preparation Operator	Preparing logs, wood chips and other raw materials for production.
Press Operator	Controls computerised panel pressing machinery.
Finishing Operator	Grading, sanding, cutting and sizing finished product.
Strapping / Packing Operator	Operating the packing, binding and strapping machinery. Forklift driving.
Timber Machinist	Maintaining, designing and sharpening timber cutting and profiling tools.

Additional Educational Requirements: Proven work history, commitment and shift work experience. Some sites and jobs may require higher qualifications.

Wood Product Manufacturing

Career	Description
Yard Hand / Despatch	Preparing, strapping and wrapping timber.
Process Machine Operator	Sorting, feeding and machining timber.
Grader / Optimiser Operator	Grading and identifying defects in timber.
Finger Jointer Operator	Operating specialist finger jointing equipment.
Timber Machinist	Maintaining, designing and sharpening timber cutting and profiling tools.
Saw Doctor	Maintaining and sharpening saws and knives.

Wood Industry Careers (Entry Level)

Pulp and Paper

Career	Description
Log Yard Operator / Driver	Operating loaders, cranes, forklifts and log loaders.
Raw Materials Preparation	Cutting logs to length. Chipper operator.
Mechanical Pulpmill Operator	Operating pulp machinery. Monitoring chemical processing.
Papermaker	Operating pulp to paper converting machine.
Pulp Drier Operator	Operating dry sheet, stacking, wrapping and baling machinery.
Packing Line Operator	Operating packing machinery. Forklift driving.
Warehouse / Despatch	Receipt and storage of product. Stock tracking and monitoring of orders.

Tissue Converting

Career	Description
Reelhand	Preparing large reels of tissue to go into converting machines.
Operations Assistant	Helping machine operators and conducting quality checks.
Packer	Packing product for storage and distribution. Forklift operating.
Warehouse / Despatch	Receipt and storage of product. Stock tracking and monitoring of orders.
Machine Operator	Operating tissue converting machinery.

Additional Educational Requirements: NCEA Level 1 Science/Tech Drawing preferred.

Furniture (Cabinetmaker)

Career	Description
Wood Machinist	Reads plans, constructs drawings and makes cutting sheets. Selects and cuts timber for a job, jointing where necessary. Machines timber to accurate sizes using sawing, planing and boring machines, spindle moulders and overhead routers.
Computerised Numerically Controlled (CNC) Machine Operator	Draws furniture components on computer. Assigns tooling in the CNC machine. Runs the machine in simulator mode and checks for discrepancies. Runs a sample to check items are correct. Proceeds with production run.
Furniture Assembler	Sands components, assembles items and fits runners and drawers. Fits doors, hinges and all other hardware (handles, catches, backs etc) to cabinets. Checks items and corrects imperfections.

Industry Support

Career	Description
Office Worker / Business Advisor	Assisting with accounting and secretarial functions, managing computer systems and inputting data.
Human Resource Support	Assisting with employment, training, health and safety issues.
Stores Person	Receipt and management of raw materials. Tracking warehouse stock. Forklift operation.
Maintenance Worker / Technician	Assisting qualified tradespeople and operations teams with maintenance and development of equipment, both electrical and mechanical.

Modern Apprenticeships

Modern Apprenticeships are available in a range of careers. FITEC manages your apprenticeship and provides support to achieve National Qualifications in your chosen career. Contact a FITEC RTA to register your interest in one of the following Modern Apprenticeships:

- Forestry Silviculture
- Forestry Harvesting
- Saw Doctoring
- Solid Wood Manufacturing
- Timber Machining
- Finger Jointing
- Wood Panel Manufacturing
- Pulp and Paper
- Furniture
- Business Administration

Traineeships

Many employers offer training plans to further your development in the industry. Contact FITEC to register your interest.

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